

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-09 ISO-00 NIC-01 IO-10 AID-05 SAJ-01

SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OES-05 COA-01 DLOS-05

AGR-10 /134 W

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R 291115Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5978

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VALLETTA 0104

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO US INTERESTS SECTION BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, CH, KN, IR, IZ

SUBJ: MINTOFF VISIT TO BAGHDAD, PYONGYANG, PEKING

REF: VALLETTA 1938, DEC 31, 1974

1. PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT JANUARY 27
CONCERNING HIS JANUARY 4-13 TRIP TO IRAQ, CHINA AND NORTH KOREA.

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TEST OF MINTOFF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. A. "A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE END OF 1974 THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT DECIDED ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO REDUCE TO THE MINIMUM THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES ON MALTA OF THE RECESSION WHICH WAS THEN BEGINNING TO HIT THE BIG COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

B. "THE CABINET DECIDED THAT MINISTERS SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY RECESS FOR A FIRST EFFORT TO EXTEND ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH THOSE COUNTRIES THAT WERE LEAST AFFECTED BY RECESSION.

C. "TWO MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS WERE URGENTLY ORGANIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE: ONE TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE OTHER TO THE GULF STATES AND THE FAR EAST. THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE (MR. PAUL XUEREBO) MADE A STATEMENT ON THE FIRST DELEGATION LAST WEEK.

D. "THE SECOND MINISTERIAL DELEGATION WAS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS: HON. FREDDIE MICALLEF, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES; EDGAR MIZZI, CROWN ADVOCATE (SIC); MAURICE ABELA, SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS; JOE CAMILLERI, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET; ALBERT MIZZI, CHAIRMAN OF AIR MALTA; AND MYSELF.

E. "THE SECOND DELEGATION TO IRAQ, CHINA AND NORTH KOREA LEFT MALTA ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1975. THE DELEGATION AVOIDED ITSELF OF SHORT STOPS IN LEBANON, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, ABU DHABI, PAKISTAN AND ITALY FOR TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

F. "ON THE WAY TO IRAQ, THE DELEGATION STOPPED FOR LESS THAN ONE HOUR IN BEIRUT. DURING A SHORT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER PROMISED TO GIVE HIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN ANTI-POLLUTION CENTRE IN MALTA FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION--A PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AT A CONFERENCE MEETING IN BARCELONA.

G. " IN IRAQ, THE MALTESE DELEGATION HAD MEETINGS ON JANUARY 5, WITH THE REPUBLIC'S VICE PRESIDENT, MR. TAHA MOHIEDDIN MAAROUF, WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, DR. HASSAN FAHMI JUMAH, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MINISTRIES. DURING THESE MEETINGS, THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF EUROPE, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS BILATERAL COOPERATION.

H. "THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED ON THE NEED TO PROMOTE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT WOULD SHORTLY SEND A TRADE DELEGATION TO MALTA TO SEE WHICH PRODUCTS

COULD BE PURCHASED FROM MALTA AND ALSO WHICH PRODUCTS COULD BE SOLD IN MALTA. THE TRADE DELEGATION WOULD ALSO CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT VENTURES IN INDUSTRY. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT WOULD SHORTLY SEND AN EXPERT TO CONSIDER THE SETTING UP OF A JOINT FISHING VENTURE.

I. " CONTACTS MADE DURING THE TALKS SHOULD PROVE USEFUL FOR MALTA'S DOCKYARD AND THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED SHORTLY TO LIFT VISA REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN THEM.

J. "ON JANUARY 6, THE DELEGATION LEFT FOR PEKING. THEY STOPPED FOR LESS THAN AN HOUR IN KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI; FOR A FEW HOURS IN BAHRAIN AND SPENT THE NIGHT IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN.

K. "AT KUWAIT AIRPORT, THE DELEGATION HELD TALKS WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND OIL, ABD AL-RAHMAN SALEM AL-ATIQUI, AND WITH MOHAMMED M. MADUH, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE KUWAIT SHIPPING COMPANY, ON BILATERAL COOPERATION.

L. "IN BAHRAIN THE DLEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA AND VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BAHRAIN CABINET.

M. "DURING A WORKING LUNCH THE MALTESE DELEGATION SPOKE ON THE NEED TO INCREASE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE BAHRAIN PRIME MINISTER PROMISED TO SEND A MINISTERIAL DELEGATION THIS MONTH TO CONSIDER TRADE PROSPECTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT VENTURES.

N. "AS BAHRAIN WAS BUILDING A SHIP-REPAIR DOCK, WE OFFERED TO TRAIN BAHRAIN WORKERS IN THIS WORK IN MALTA. THE BAHRAIN MINISTERIAL DELEGATION, LED BY THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES, YOUSSEF SHIRAWI, ARRIVED IN MALTA LAST

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FRIDAY AND THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY WOULD GIVE INFORMATION ON THIS VISIT LATER.

O. "IN ABU DHABI, THE DELEGATION HAD TALKS WITH SEIF GOYLACH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON BILATERAL PROJECTS AND CONSIDERED THE BEST WAY TO SPEED UP THESE PROJECTS. THE DELEGATION ALSO HAD THE OCCASION ON THE PLANE TO HOLD TALKS WITH SHEIK SABOOR BIN MOHD AL-NAHAYAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ABU DHABI DEVELOPMENT FUND.

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OES-05 COA-01 DLOS-05

AGR-10 /138 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5979

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

473#50/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 41

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

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P."THE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN KARACHI ON THE NIGHT OF JAN-
UARY 6. THEY WERE MET BY THE GOVERNOR OF KARACHI AND BY THE
CHAIRMAN OF P.I.A. THE DELEGATION INFORMED THE P.I.A. CHAIRMAN
OF THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MAKE A GESTURE OF
FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD WILL TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN IN THEIR
GRIEF FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE TRAGEDY. TO HELP THE VICTIMS
OF THE TRAGEDY, THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT WAS TO CONTRIBUTE THE
SUM OF 20,000 MALTA POUNDS. I AM CERTAIN THAT ALL MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF MALTA WOULD JOIN WITH THE
GOVERNMENT IN THIS ACT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PAKISTANI PEOPLE,
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WHO, ALTHOUGH LIVING IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, DID THEIR BEST TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF MALTA.

Q. "THE DELEGATION STARTED THEIR VISIT TO CHINA ON JANUARY 7. THE DELEGATION HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH CHAIRMAN MAO TSE TUNG AND WITH PRIME MINISTER CHOU EN LAI. MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH MINISTERS, INCLUDING THE VICE PREMIER, LI HSIEN NIEN, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, CHIAO KUAN-HUA.

B. "THE MALTESE DELGATION CONSIDERED, WITH CHINESE LEADERS, WORLD POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA.

S. "ON BILATERAL PROJECTS, TALKS WERE HELD TO CONSIDER THE BEST WAY OF SPEEDING UP THE BUILDING OF THE DOCK AND OF INDUS-TRAIL PROJECTS ALREADY IN HAND. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED, AS IN THE CASE OF HELP ALREADY GIVEN TO SET UP IN MALTA THE CHOCOLATE, ORNAMENTAL GLASS, TEXTILE, CARPET, RATTAN PRODUCTS, BATHROOM FITTINGS AND SHOES FACTORIES, TO HELP THE SETTING UP OF OTHER INDUSTRIES. FOR THIS PURPOSE, CHINESE EXPERTS WERE STUDYING A LIST OF PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY THE MALTESE DELEGATION TO SEE WHICH OF THESE WERE MOST SUITABLE FOR MALTA.

T. "IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO SEND EXPERTS TO HELP MALTA'S MINISTRY OF AGRI-CULTURE AND FISHERIES. A TEAM WOULD ALSO BE SENT TO HELP THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT IN TRAINING FOR THE FISHING INDUSTRY BY MEMBERS OF DIRGHAJN IL-MALTIN.

U. "FROM PEKING THE DELEGATION WENT TO PYONGYANG, WHERE THEY REMAINED FROM JANUARY 10 TO 13. IN NORTH KOREA, THE DELEGATION SAW WITH THEIR OWN EYES THE GREAT PROGRESS MADE BY A PEOPLE DEDICATED TO WORK. PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG EXPLAINED THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AIMS OF HIS COUNTRY AND THE METHODS USED FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THOSE AIMS.

V. "DETAILED TALKS WERE HELD WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, KIM IL, CONCERNING GREATER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE NORTH KOREAN LEADERS WERE PREPARED TO OPEN UP TRADE WITH MALTA. EARLY FEBRUARY, AN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DELEGATION WAS DUE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO VISIT MALTA TO INCEASE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE DELEGATION WOULD ALSO CONSIDER COOPERATION IN SHIPPING AND WOULD SEE HOW THEIR COUNTRY'S AIRLINE COULD USE THE FACILITIES AT LUQA, WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY EXTENDED THEIR AIRLINE SUERVICES TO EUROPE.

W. "NORTH KOREA WOULD ALSO HELP MALTA BY PROVIDING FISHERMEN, NETS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBERS OF DIRGHAJN IL-MALTIN; BY GIVING ACCESSORIES AND SPARE PARTS FOR MACHINE TOOLS WHICH THEY HAD GENEROUSLY GIVEN MALTA SOME TWO YEARS AGO; AND BY PROVIDING MACHINERY AND KNOW-KOW FOR THE SETTING UP IN MALTA OF A HAND TOOLS INDUSTRY. THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO HELP THE MALTESE FARMER BY MEANS OF FERTILIZERS.

X. "THE MALTESE DELEGATION TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG TO COME TO MALTA.

Y. " ON JANUARY 13, THE MALTESE DELEGATION STOPPED FOR A SHORT TIME IN ISLAMABAD, WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED BY PAKISTAN'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AZIZ AHMED, AND HELD TALKS WITH HIM ON BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Z. "ON JANUARY 14 IN THE AFTERNOON THE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN ROME, AND IN THE EVENING HAD A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, SIGNOR ALDO MORO, WHO KINDLY OFFERED TO MEET THE DELEGATION IN THE HOTEL WHERE THEY WERE STAYING AS GUESTS OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. AT THIS MEETING, AND AT ANOTHER MEETING THE FOLLOWING MORNING WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON RELATIONS BETWEEN MALTA AND ITALY AND ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AFFECTING BOTH COUNTRIES. ON THAT SAME DAY IN THE AFTERNOON, THE DELEGATION RETURNED TO MALTA.

AA. " I WISH PUBLICLY TO THANK ALL THE GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY AND THE HELP GIVEN THE DELEGATION IN CARRYING OUR ITS DUTIES TOWARDS THE MALTESE PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS JOINTLY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ALONG THE WAY OF PEACE." SMITH

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